A QUALITY ROMANCE PUBLICATION

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Exotic ROMANCES

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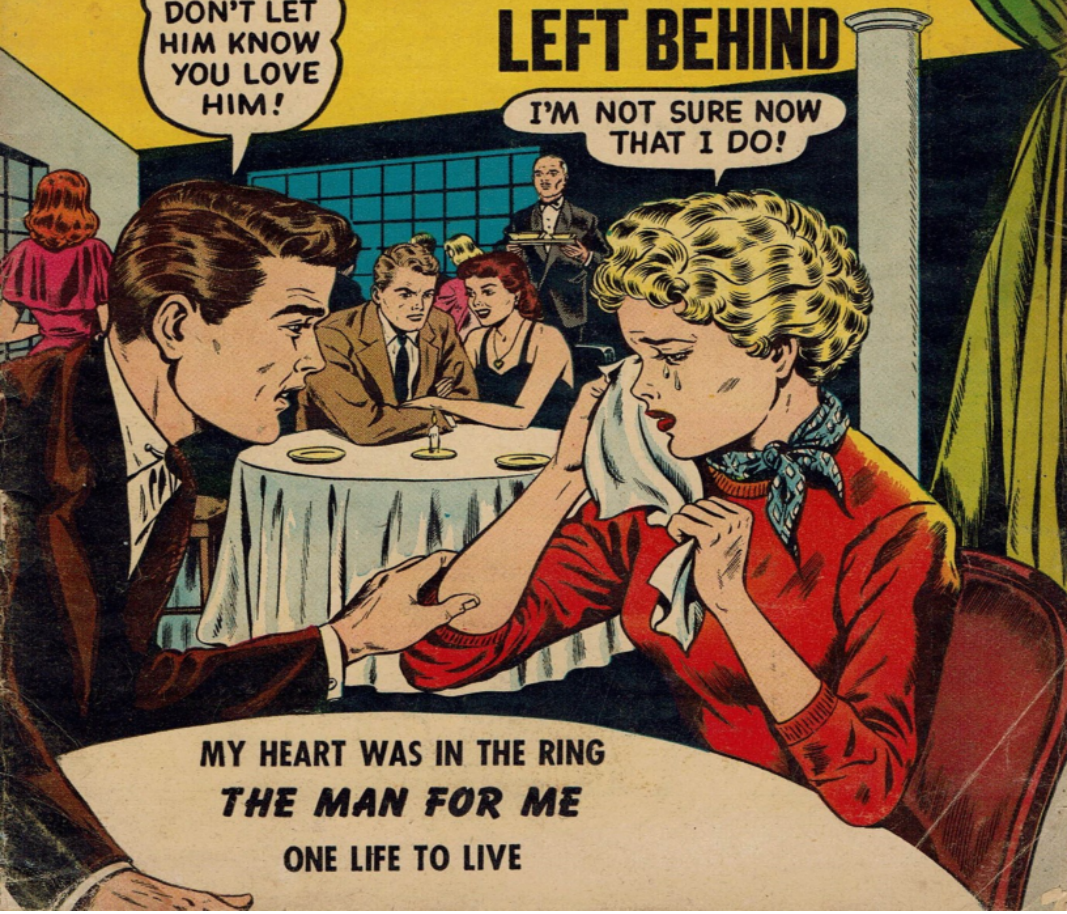
"BRIAN GRAYSON STARTED A CAMPAIGN TO HELP ME WIN BACK GIL ROBERTS... BUT SOMETIMES THINGS CHANGE WHEN YOU'RE..."

THE GIRL WHO WAS LEFT BEHIND



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THE MAN FOR ME

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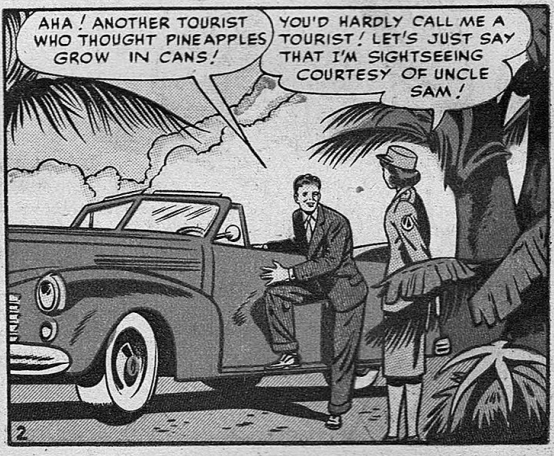
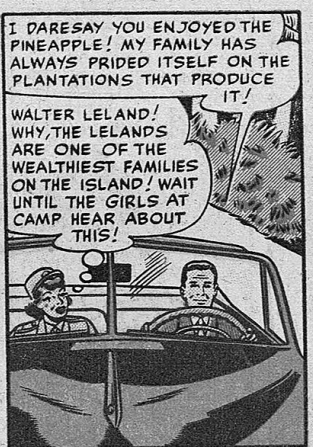
The MAN FOR ME
WHEN A GENTLE BREEZE RIPPLES THE BLUE PACIFIC AND MOONLIGHT, FILTERED BY THE PALMS, MAKES PATTERNS ON THE CORAL BEACH, IT'S EASY TO THINK YOU'RE IN LOVE! IN SUCH AN ENCHANTED MOMENT YOU MAKE PROMISES YOUR HEART WON'T LET YOU KEEP! THEN, IN THE SEARCHING LIGHT OF DAY, YOU REALIZE, TOO LATE, THAT YOU LOATHE THE LIPS YOU KISSED AND THE ARMS THAT CARESSED YOU! IT HAPPENED TO ME... AND PERHAPS THE ANGUISHED TEARS I SHED WILL BE YOUR WARNING!

With so many of the young men in my home town going into the service, I decided to become a WAC! The adventure and romance which had attracted me came sooner than I expected!



Back home I would have frowned upon that meeting as a "pickup", but on the island life seemed so carefree and casual! Besides, the admiration that flashed in the stranger's eyes fascinated me!



What had promised to be a lonely weekend was suddenly transformed into a storybook experience!

Every moment with Walter was an exhilarating adventure! No wonder I found myself eagerly awaiting the next time I would see him!

And before another week had gone by...

All the standard romantic props were there! What if the possessive lips that crushed mine left me unshaken and unresponsive? In that glamorous setting, who can blame me if my hunger for love led me astray?

It was so thrilling to be loved, that the thought of anyone else being lonely seemed unbearable! Perhaps that was the reason my heart went out to the soldier I noticed in the rec hall one evening!

It was an impulsive thing to do, but Chet's wistful, boyish expression drew me to him! He needed a friend and I could be that friend!

I expected Walter to be disappointed, but I was not prepared for what happened!

Walter's surly attitude revealed a new facet of his pesonality! Even though I was confident that our misunderstanding would be patched, my heart ached as I prepared for my "date"!

Chet Harvey didn't look far or long! After that evening, he was like my shadow! Even after Walter apologized and we made up, Chet referred to me as his "best girl"!

I looked forward to meeting Walter's family and friends with mixed emotions! This time it was Chet who acted as "the friend in need"!

DARLING, HOW YOU DO GET AROUND! I'M GLAD YOU'RE EARLY BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO SEE THIS ROUTINE!
I'VE SEEN ALL I WANT TO SEE! I SURPOSE YOU KNOW YOU'VE RUINED THE DINNER PARTY!

RUINED IT? WHY...! OH, WALTER, I'LL HAVE TO RUSH!
YES, LOOK AT THE TIME! I'VE BEEN WAITING AT THAT INFERNAL GATE SINCE SIX O'CLOCK! AND LOOK AT YOURSELF! IT WOULD TAKE ANOTHER TWO HOURS TO GET YOU PRESENTABLE!

PUTTING ON A CHEAP EXHIBITION FOR A CROWD OF SOLDIERS! AND DON'T THINK I MISSED THAT DISGUSTING SCENE YOU JUST PUT ON WITH THAT YOUNG PUNK!
I KNOW I DON'T HAVE AN EXCUSE IN THE WORLD FOR WHAT I'VE DONE, WALTER! BUT... YOU CAN'T TALK THAT WAY ABOUT MY FRIENDS!

YOUR FRIENDS? I SHOULD CONCERN MYSELF WITH RIFF-RAFF WHEN I'VE A HOUSEFUL OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE WAITING FOR ME? IT'LL BE HUMILIATING ENOUGH, EXPLAINING YOUR ABSENCE!
PERHAPS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE HUMILIATING EXPLAINING MY PRESENCE, WALTER!

IF THESE PEOPLE ARE RIFF-RAFF, THEN I'M RIFF-RAFF, TOO!
IT'LL GET ME A MONTH IN THE GUARDHOUSE, BUT SAY THE WORD AND I'LL REDUCE THIS GUY TO CRUSHED PINEAPPLE!

I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND THE DAY I PICKED YOU UP!
DON'T, CHET! LET HIM GO!

I'M SORRY, HONEY! I SHOULDN'T HAVE BLOWN MY TOP THAT WAY!
IT DOESN'T MATTER, CHET! =SOB= IT DOESN'T MATTER! I KNEW IT...IT COULDN'T LAST!

Then, suddenly I realized that the tears on my cheeks were tears of anger, not of heartbreak ...and for the first time, I saw Chet not as a boy who needed my help but as a man... a man I needed and loved!

I was at ease with Chet, perfectly at home in his protecting arms! And because he loved and understood, I was no longer torn between duty and love... they were synonymous!

When GIL ROBERTS LEFT OUR TOWN, HE TOOK MY HEART WITH HIM! HOW COULD I KNOW HOW SOON HE WOULD TOSS IT AWAY? HOW COULD I HAVE SUSPECTED THE SUFFERING AND ANGUISH THAT LAY AHEAD OF ME BECAUSE I WAS

The Girl Who Was Left Behind!

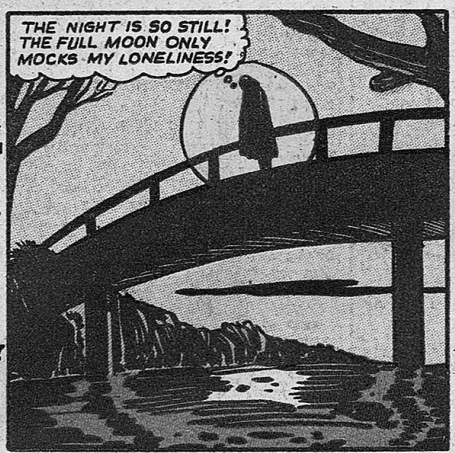
I REMEMBER SO VIVIDLY HOW GIL BROKE THE NEWS ABOUT HIS GOING AWAY! WE HAD BEEN TO A DANCE THAT EVENING! AND HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT UNTIL HE BROUGHT ME HOME! THEN—

AFTER THE FIRST BLOW, I BEGAN TO SEE THE MOVE AS A BREAK FOR US! WE WERE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED AND THE IDEA OF BEGINNING LIFE TOGETHER IN THE BIG CITY HELD GREAT PROMISE! YET I COULDN'T HELP FEELING SAD THE DAY GIL LEFT!

I STOOD THERE WAVING WHILE THE TRAIN PULLED AWAY! WITH GIL WENT MY TRUST AND DEEP, UNDYING DEVOTION! I'M GLAD I DIDN'T KNOW THEN HOW QUICKLY I WOULD BE FORGOTTEN! OH, SURE, I HAD LETTERS FROM HIM! BUT THEY WERE DISAPPOINTING!

ONCE HE CAME THROUGH WITH A LETTER THAT GAVE ME HOPE! IT WAS SHORT BUT SWEET! IT WENT AS FOLLOWS--
Muriel, my dear - I haven't meant to neglect you but I've been working night and day to get myself established in this business. And I'm meeting all the big shots --- I mean really top crust. You'll get a kick out of knowing them and you'll like this life. More about it later. Love, Gil
THEN HE STILL EXPECTS ME TO JOIN HIM! I CAN KEEP ON PLANNING!
BUT PLANS WERE PALTRY SUBSTITUTES FOR THE SWEETHEART WHO WAS GONE --- FOR THE LETTERS THAT DWINDLED AWAY UNTIL NONE CAME AT ALL --- FOR THE LONELINESS THAT WAS TEARING MY HEART OUT! MONTHS PASSED AND THEN--
SOMETHING'S WRONG! I KNOW IT! AND I CAN'T STAND THE SUSPENSE OF WAITING!
I'M GOING TO THE CITY! WHEN GIL AND I GET TOGETHER AGAIN, EVERYTHING WILL BE JUST THE SAME AS BEFORE!
IN THAT, I WAS MISTAKEN! I'LL NEVER FORGET THE HORROR AND THE HUMILIATION I FELT WHEN I WENT TO THE PARIS CLUB TO SURPRISE HIM!
MURIEL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
GIL, AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME?
WHO IS SHE, GIL? YOU DIDN'T WARN ME ABOUT ANOTHER WOMAN IN YOUR LIFE!
THIS IS MURIEL KENT, MARGO! MURIEL, MISS DE VERE!
SHE'S --- ER -- FROM MY HOME TOWN!
I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, DARLING! ONLY YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THERE WAS A GIRL YOU LEFT BEHIND!

BUT HE DIDN'T, I GUESS! I WAITED FOR DAYS AND DIDN'T HEAR FROM HIM! AND WHEN I WAS CONVINCED THAT HE DIDN'T CARE, I WENT ALMOST CRAZY! I STARTED WALKING!



I'LL NEVER KNOW WHY, BUT I POURED MY HEART OUT TO BRIAN GRAYSON, THE MAN WHO HAD STARTLED ME! WHEN YOU'RE IN A FRANTIC FRAME OF MIND, AS I WAS, I GUESS YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE! BESIDES, HE SEEMED SO UNDERSTANDING!

BRIAN BEGAN HIS CAMPAIGN THEN! TOLD ME WHAT TO WEAR AND HOW TO WEAR IT! HOW TO DO MY HAIR! HE TRAINED ME WELL BEFORE HE TOOK ME TO THE PARIS CLUB! AND HE SHOWED ME LOTS OF ATTENTION!

IT'S FUNNY, ISN'T IT, HOW QUICKLY LOVE CAN TURN TO HATRED? I WANTED GIL MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD UNTIL I KNEW I HAD WON HIM BACK! IT WAS ANOTHER NIGHT AT THE PARIS CLUB!
MURIEL, I HAVE TO SEE YOU! THIS GRAYSON GUY HAS BEEN TAKING UP ALL YOUR TIME!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
I RESENT IT! WE WERE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED AND...
WE WERE! BUT WERE NOT ANY LONGER, GIL! YOU MADE IT PRETTY PLAIN THAT YOU WEREN'T ANXIOUS TO SEE ME WHEN I CAME HERE!
LOVE HAS TO BE A LASTING THING! AT LEAST, WITH ME!
BUT, MURIEL, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
I'M AFRAID I UNDERSTAND TOO WELL!
SHALL WE GO, DEAR?
BRIAN PUT ME INTO A CAB AND WE RODE FOR A LONG TIME WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING! THERE WAS A LOT I WANTED TO SAY, BUT I HAD MADE MISTAKES BEFORE! SO I KEPT SILENT!
THEN FINALLY...
DARLING, ARE YOU REALLY THROUGH WITH GIL? PLEASE SAY YOU ARE BECAUSE I LOVE YOU! I'VE TRIED SO HARD NOT TO SAY IT!
SAY IT, BRIAN! TELL ME OVER AND OVER! BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, TOO!
I KNOW NOW THAT GIL COULDN'T HAVE LOVED ME VERY MUCH AND LEFT ME AS HE DID!
I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU, MURIEL! WILL YOU MARRY ME REAL SOON?
I SAID "YES" AND I'VE NEVER BEEN SORRY! BRIAN IS A WONDERFUL HUSBAND! I'M GLAD NOW, THAT AS FAR AS GIL IS CONCERNED, I WAS THE GIRL WHO WAS LEFT BEHIND!

My HEART was in the RING

HE HASN'T GOT A CHANCE IN THAT FIGHT I'VE BOOKED! MARTY'S A WASHOUT!

TOO BAD YOU SIGNED HIM UP!

HIS FIGHTING CAREER SHATTERED WHEN HIS LEGS GAVE OUT, MY BROTHER JIM CUT HIMSELF OFF FROM THE BOXING WORLD HE LOVED AND WARNED ME..."I'LL NEVER LET YOU MARRY A FIGHTER, NANCY! THE RING CAN NEVER MEAN ANYTHING BUT HEARTBREAK!" AND THEN I FELL IN LOVE WITH MARTY JOYCE AND LEARNED THE WISDOM OF THOSE BITTER WORDS!

JIM SPOKE OF HIS SHORT-LIVED BOXING CAREER ONLY RARELY!

WORKING AT A DRILL PRESS ISN'T AS GLAMOROUS AS FIGHTING, BUT IT'S A LIVING, RIGHT, NANCY?

BUT YOU AREN'T HAPPY, JIM! I WORRY ABOUT YOU!

LET ME WORRY ABOUT YOU, SIS! YOU RUN THE HOUSE AND I'LL BRING HOME THE BACON!

SOMETIMES I THINK YOU'VE LOST INTEREST IN LIFE!

MAYBE I DID... BUT THAT'S WHAT THE FIGHT GAME DOES TO FAILURES! DON'T EVER WASTE YOUR TIME ON A BOXER, NANCY! IF YOU'RE GOING TO FALL IN LOVE, FALL FOR A BOOKKEEPER OR A STORE CLERK!

LOVE IS SOMETHING I HAVEN'T HAD TO WORRY ABOUT, JIM! NOT YET!

BUT FATE HAS AN IRONICAL WAY OF CHANGING OUR PLANS AND PROMISES!
YOU AND MARTY OUGHT TO HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT! NANCY'S BROTHER WAS A BOXER, MARTY!
I'D RATHER TALK ABOUT NANCY!

ARE YOU REALLY A FIGHTER?
SO THEY TELL ME! I WAS JUST AN AMATEUR A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND THEN AL GRAW SPOTTED ME AND SIGNED ME UP!

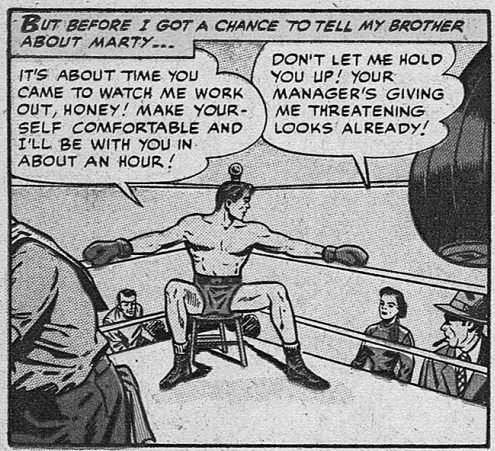
I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM! HE'S QUITE A MANAGER!
BEST IN THE BUSINESS! AND I'M REALLY ANXIOUS TO GO PLACES! I GUESS YOU KNOW HOW WRAPPED UP A MAN CAN GET IN THE FIGHT GAME!

I LIKED MARTY FROM THE MOMENT I MET HIM, AND FROM THAT EVENING ON, I SAW HIM REGULARLY!
SAY, WHO'S THIS NEW HEART-THROB, NANCY? WHY HAVEN'T YOU BROUGHT HIM AROUND?
I WILL, JIM... ONE OF THESE EVENINGS!
JIM WOULD BE FURIOUS IF HE KNEW WHAT MARTY DOES FOR A LIVING!

AND, SO... I KEPT MY DATES WITH MARTY SECRET! THEN, ONE EVENING...
IT'S GOING TO MEAN A LOT, NANCY, KNOWING YOU'RE PULLING FOR ME IN THAT FIGHT WITH LOU DAMON!

I'D RATHER HAVE YOU IN MY ARMS, SWEETHEART! I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO TELL YOU THAT... I LOVE YOU!
I'VE HOPED FOR THAT, DARLING! YOU SEE, I... I LOVE YOU, TOO!

MARTY'S LIPS AND MINE FUSED IN A KISS THAT TOLD ME THERE COULD BE NO MORE SECRETS! I WAS HOPELESSLY, DESPERATELY IN LOVE WITH HIM!


BUT BEFORE I GOT A CHANCE TO TELL MY BROTHER ABOUT MARTY---
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU CAME TO WATCH ME WORK OUT, HONEY! MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE AND I'LL BE WITH YOU IN ABOUT AN HOUR!
DON'T LET ME HOLD YOU UP! YOUR MANAGER'S GIVING ME THREATENING LOOKS ALREADY!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO EAVESDROP, BUT A FEW MOMENTS LATER---
HOW'S YOUR NEW BOY SHAPING UP, AL?
DON'T REMIND ME!

HE WAS TERRIFIC IN THOSE AMATEUR MATCHES I CAUGHT, BUT THE MORE I WATCH HIM, THE MORE I COULD KICK MYSELF FOR SIGNING HIM UP!
YEAH---I SEE YOUR POINT!

HE'S A SLUGGER, BUT A SCIENTIFIC FIGHTER LIKE LOU DAMON WILL SLAUGHTER HIM!
TOO LATE---I'VE ALREADY SIGNED THE CONTRACT! BUT MARTY'S GONNA BE BACK IN THE AMATEUR CLASS AFTER THAT BATTLE!

SHOCKED BY WHAT I HAD HEARD, I TOOK MY PROBLEM TO JIM!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AFRAID TO TELL ME ABOUT THIS JOYCE FELLOW, NANCY! I KNOW I WARNED YOU BUT YOU CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE!
I KNOW! AND, JIM, I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT HIM!

THAT DAMON GUY WILL BE TOUGH TO BEAT IF MARTY'S NOT TRAINED RIGHT!
THAT'S JUST IT! I THOUGHT--- WELL, YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE WAY DAMON FIGHTS! MAYBE YOU CAN HELP HIM!

I COULD GIVE HIM A FEW TIPS AT THAT! HOW ABOUT ASKING MARTY IN FOR THE EVENING?
OH, JIM, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

SOME OF JIM'S ENTHUSIASM SEEMED TO RETURN AS WE WAITED FOR MARTY THAT EVENING---
MY CAREER MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHORT, BUT I NEVER LOST A FIGHT! AND IF MARTY'S GOT SPEED AND STAMINA, I KNOW I CAN GIVE HIM SOME GOOD TIPS!
HE'LL BE GRATEFUL, JIM! I KNOW HE WILL!

BUT LATER---
---AND THEN THERE WAS THE MATCH WITH KID ROSCOE! HE HAD A POWERFUL RIGHT, BUT HE MADE THE SAME MISTAKE LOU DAMON MAKES!
ER---IT'S GETTING LATE AND AL'S FUSSY ABOUT ME GETTING TO BED EARLY!

WE'LL TALK ABOUT YOUR FIGHTS AGAIN, JIM--- SOME OTHER NIGHT!
BUT, MARTY..

HE'S RIGHT, NANCY! WE'LL GET TOGETHER SOME OTHER NIGHT! REST IS PLENTY IMPORTANT TO ANY ATHLETE!
BUT DON'T FORGET, MARTY --- JIM'S WILLING TO COACH YOU IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOUR MANAGER!

WELL, I---I ALREADY HAVE A GOOD TRAINER! BUT THANKS ANYWAY, JIM! GOOD NIGHT!
LOTS OF LUCK, BOY!

THE EVENING HAD BEEN A DISMAL FAILURE, WITH MARTY OBVIOUSLY BORED! AND AFTER HE LEFT, I COULDN'T HELP NOTICING THE BITTER EXPRESSION ON JIM'S FACE!
I'M SORRY, JIM! HE WAS---TERRIBLY INCONSIDERATE!
DON'T BLAME HIM, NANCY! HE'S A YOUNG KID ON HIS WAY UP!

WHY SHOULD HE TAKE ADVICE FROM A BROKEN-DOWN PUG WHO WORKS IN A FACTORY?
I WON'T FORGIVE MARTY FOR THIS! JIM LOOKS LIKE A BEATEN OLD MAN --- AND HE'S TO BLAME!

I WAS STILL SEETHING WITH ANGER WHEN I DROVE OUT TO AL GRAW'S TRAINING CAMP WITH MARTY THE NEXT NIGHT!

HE COULD HAVE HELPED YOU! AND WHAT DO YOU DO? ACT LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL!

ALL RIGHT! SO MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE HUMORED HIM!

HUMORED HIM? WHY, JIM WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE BIG TIME WHEN HE DEVELOPED THAT MUSCULAR CONDITION!

SURE...SURE! LOOK, HONEY, THE WOODS ARE FULL OF CHAMPIONS LIKE HIM!

LOOK, IF I TOOK ADVICE FROM EVERY HAS-BEEN IN THE GAME, I'D GO CRAZY!

YOU CAN'T TALK THAT WAY ABOUT MY BROTHER!

WELL, IT'S TRUE! HE FIGHTS A COUPLE OF MATCHES AND THEN SPENDS THE REST OF HIS LIFE TALKING ABOUT IT! HE'S A GREAT GUY, BUT...

WHY, YOU CONCEITED, SHORT-SIGHTED FOOL!

YOUR OWN MANAGER DOESN'T GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO WIN THAT FIGHT WITH LOU DAMON! AND YOU'RE TOO STUBBORN TO TAKE A FEW TIPS!

NOT FROM YOUR BROTHER, NO!

THEN DON'T EXPECT ME TO BE THERE CHEERING FOR YOU! YOU'LL BE THE HAS-BEEN AFTER THAT FIGHT!

OH, I WILL? IT'S NICE TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT ME!

YOU'RE NOT ON MY SIDE... YOU'RE TOO BUSY BABYING YOUR BROTHER!

YOU..YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE! SOB: I'M SORRY I EVER MET YOU!

I LEFT MARTY WITH A TURMOIL OF CONFUSED EMOTIONS FIGHTING INSIDE ME! AND WHEN THE ANGER FADED AWAY!
:SOB: OH, MARTY, WHY CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO YOURSELF? :SOB: I WANTED TO HELP YOU, DARLING, AND NOW I'VE LOST YOU!
NANCY? HEY, NOW... WHAT'S WRONG, SIS?
NOTHING'S WRONG, JIM! :SOB: REALLY... IT'S NOTHING AT ALL!
ALL THROUGH THE WEEK THAT FOLLOWED, I HID THE SECRET IN MY ANGUISHED HEART FROM JIM! BUT ONE DAY...
DON'T TRY TO FOOL ME, NANCY! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN MARTY JOYCE ALL WEEK! THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG, ISN'T IT?
OH, JIM...!
IS IT SOMETHING HE SAID ABOUT ME? BECAUSE I'M NOT WORTH ALL THIS MISERY, SIS!
YOU ARE, JIM! YOU COULD HAVE FOUGHT RINGS AROUND HIM, BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN! AND NOW... IT'S TOO LATE TO HELP HIM!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE! NOT IF YOU LOVE HIM, NANCY! NOT IF YOU'RE WILLING TO FIGHT TO KEEP HIM!
HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME! IT'S ALL OVER, JIM!
I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE YOU KIDS BREAKING UP BECAUSE I'M A SAP WHO LIVES IN THE PAST! WE'RE GOING DOWN TO THE GYM AND SET HIM STRAIGHT!
AND SOON...
MARTY'S BEEN A WRECK SINCE HE HAD THAT SCRAP WITH YOU, KID! MAYBE YOU CAN CHEER HIM UP, BUT IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO GET HIM INTO SHAPE FOR THAT BRAWL WITH DAMON!
DAMON ISN'T TOO TOUGH TO BEAT!
GYM

BUT I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ANYMORE! JIM WAS SMILING, RARIN' TO GO AS MARTY STEPPED INTO THE RING A FEW MINUTES LATER!

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GILDED LOVE

JERRY RAND met my sister, Edith, the first time he came to take me out. Edith introduced herself as I entered the room. I can still see the wide-eyed look of wonderment on Jerry's face as he looked at her And the vicious pang of jealousy that sprang through me is just as vivid in my memory. Jerry's adoring look wasn't surprising. Edith is one of the top models in New York. Her beauty is like a precious hothouse plant that must be tended and nurtured and looked after

I was plain by comparison, I knew that well But determination hardened in me that night, when I had to speak twice before Jerry turned to look at me. "Oh, hello, Betty," he smiled, somewhat flustered. We left moments later, to spend what was for me, the most enchanting evening ever How I loved that man. But I felt that he wasn't even mildly attracted to me after meeting Edith.

So, the next day I enrolled in the swankiest beauty course in town and started the rigid training and exercising that is the first essential to the sleek figure and smart good looks I hoped to attain for Jerry's sake He was out of town on business for two weeks and I spent every free moment at the salon. It was much too expensive for my small earnings, but I wanted Jerry more than anything in the world

Edith was the first to comment on the change in my appearance. "Why, Betty, you're actually looking quite chic these days. Is that new boyfriend the inspiration?" She smiled knowingly I was a little annoyed at the transparency of what I was doing, but after all, Edith was my sister and good friend I told her all about the course "Smart gal," she nodded approvingly "Let me give you some models 'tips on make-up Those eyebrows have tremendous possibilities. Honestly, Betty I thought you just couldn't be bothered or I would have offered to give you a little coaching long before this." I submitted willingly to Edith's efforts, but the results were so amazing I hardly recognized that sophisticated creature in the mirror So I decided to make the change in my make-up a more gradual thing

My mind was taken off the beauty routine when Jerry took me out to dinner again and followed it up with almost nightly dates. I was convinced that my torturous hours at the salon were paying off. Then came the thrilling evening when he proposed. "You're just the girl I've always wanted to meet, Betty," he murmured as he held me close, "And now I'd like to spend my life with you. Will you marry me, darling?"

I returned home in an ecstasy of delight. Edith knew immediately what had happened. "You see?" she chirped, "The old glamour really pays off." Suddenly a shadow fell over me. I was just a little sorry that I'd had to make so many changes in my appearance before Jerry really seemed to notice me. But I soon shook off the doldrums and renewed my determination to stay glamourous. The next night I met him in full battle array . . . the elaborate make-up job which Edith carefully applied and garbed in one of her evening gowns. Jerry looked slightly non-plussed when I met him at the door, the same expression I'd seen on his face when he saw Edith. But as the evening wore on, he was strangely quiet. And on the way home he sat away in the corner of the taxi and just stared at me. Finally I said, "What's the matter, Jerry?" "You look like Edith," he replied softly "Why thank you, that's a great compliment," I said gayly "I don't mean it that way, Betty," he said firmly. I must have looked astonished, but that didn't stem the tide of words that followed. He told me that the first thing he liked about me was my naturalness, my fresh, clean good looks. "But," I protested, "The way you looked at Edith that first night, I thought . . ." "Well you thought wrong," he exploded, "If I stared at her it was because she was so startling looking." My first impulse was to cry but instead I went into gales of laughter and as he looked at me in surprise, I poured out the story of my beauty course and Edith's tutoring

The first thing I did when we got to my home was to scrub my face with soap and water and vigorously brush out my hair Then I returned to the living room to Jerry He gathered me into his arms, tenderly. "Mmmm," he sighed, "You're the gal for me . . . just *naturally* sweet and good looking!"

LOOK FOR THIS SEAL ON THE COVER
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Love Confessions
Girls In Love
Love Secrets

Heart Throbs
Wedding Bells

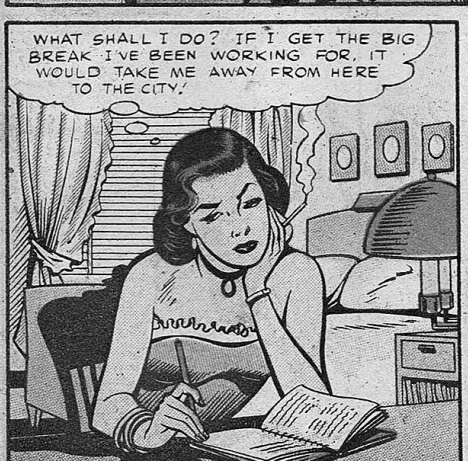
Love Letters
Brides Romances
Exotic Romances

ONE LIFE to LIVE

CAROL, WILL YOU MARRY ME?

I DON'T KNOW, VIC! I WANT TO ONLY...! GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME TO THINK IT OVER!

I LOVED VIC DEEPLY AND WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED HIS PROPOSAL IN A MINUTE IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR MY SINGING CAREER! I HAD ALWAY DREAMED OF HITTING THE BIG TIME AND I KNEW I COULDN'T HAVE BOTH! I FELT I HAD BUT ONE LIFE TO LIVE AND WANTED TO GET THE MOST OUT OF IT!



Two nights later, I gave Vic my answer but without the conviction I should have felt! It seemed that I was closing the door on all my chances for achievement!

I doubt that a man ever adored a girl more than Vic Granger did me! He stood by patiently while I took the bows and received the applause which seemed so essential in my life!

There's an exalted feeling that surges through you as a result of success! It's a sensation of accomplishment and pride apart from other emotions! The next day I experienced it at it's fullest!

My big chance had come, something that thousands of girls would have given their right arms for! Yet I was uncertain! I had promised to marry Vic and wanted him but how could I have both?

I felt hollow and horrible about leaving Vic! And it didn't make it any easier when I drove to the plant the next afternoon to pick him up!

A pang of jealousy darted through me like a sharp pain! Jean Winters was Vic's secretary and he was fond of her. I doubted the wisdom of my decision but the die was cast! A few days later...

I went through the routine...

I was cast in the show in the chorus! It didn't pay much but at least it was big time! I rented a small one room apartment and had everything I wanted except Vic!

I felt alone and depressed! Was I losing Vic? The show opened and folded in a week and I was preparing to pack and go home when I met Mr Sanders!

The show was a hit and ran for months! I was an insignificant group singer on a small salary! I lived for Vic's letters but they were mostly full of Jeannie! Then One day....

Replacing me in the show was easy! I was sure I wanted to go home but uncertain as to what I would find there! My arrival seemed to confirm my most woeful suspicions!

I'm thoroughly content and ecstatically happy. With only one life to live, no person can have everything. And I know now what I want.

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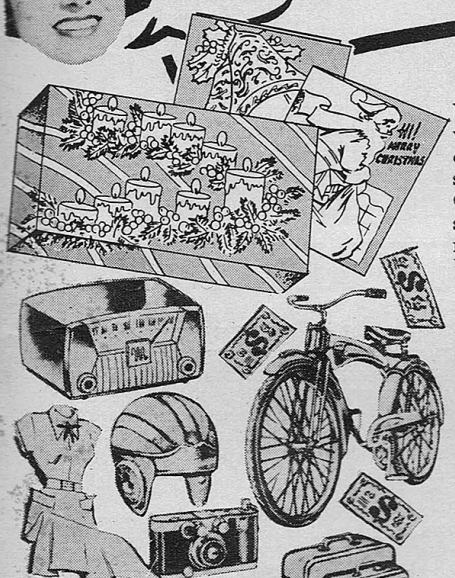

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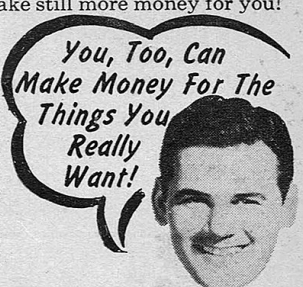

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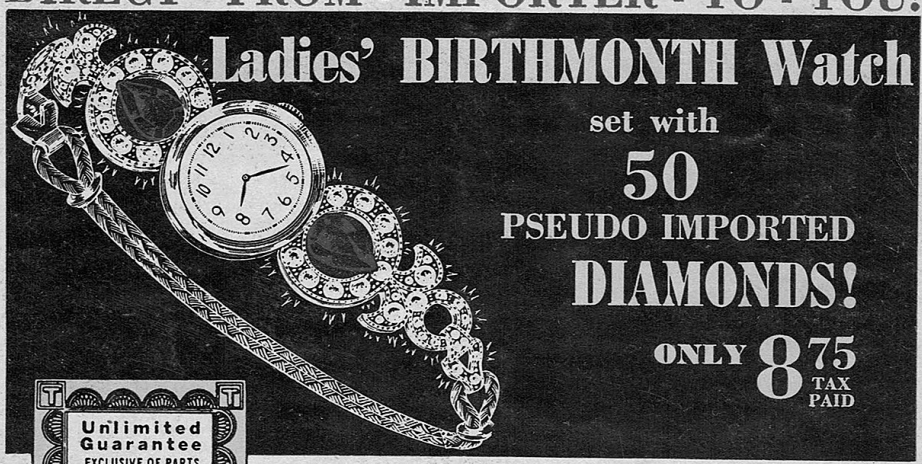

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MY HEART WAS IN THE RING

THE MAN FOR ME

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

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